precursor to an earthquake. It cannot be affirmatively stated that unusual behaviour of animals always results in an earthquake.

Science Park in Bangalore

3817. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal for the release of Centre's share in the setting up of Science Park in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed Science Park,

(c) the Centre's share therein; and

(d) the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Science Advisory Committee

3818. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Science Advisory Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up a Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) consisting of eminent scientists, technologists, academicians, industrialists and Heads of S&T organizations.

The terms of reference of the Council are to look at the issues which would be relevant to India at the policy level. The Council will prepare a future road map for Science & Technology, policy guidelines and guide the nation towards a direction, which will ensure our preparedness for meeting the challenges of the future. It will also consider and suggest mechanism to build scientific temper within the community and other policy issues

related to space, metallurgy, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Ocean Science, Nanotechnology etc. including issues of basic science. Other issues such as scarcity of water and energy would also be addressed.

Bio-Tech Park in Tamil Nadu

3819. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote Biotechnology in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up Biotech Park in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India plans and executes various schemes in Human Resource Development, Infrastructure facilities, Research & Development societal Programmes, Technology Transfer and Commercialization towards promotion of Biotechnology in the country through University Departments, R&D institutions, State Councils etc located in different states of the country including the state of Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Government of Tamil Nadu has established the TICEL Bio Park to promote Biotechnology Research & Development and Industrial activities at a cost of Rs. 62.50 Crores, at Taramani, Chennai. The TICEL Bio Park had requested funding from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India for the establishment of infrastructure facilities in the park. The department reviewed the proposal and advised them to reformulate the proposal as per the guidelines issued by DBT specifying the exact infrastructure requirements and their proposed utilities for further consideration. The revised proposal is awaited from the park.

Funds for Research and Development

3820. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Bio-technology has been